

**Folder 7:
Scherer,
Fred G.
(Fairbanks)
1920-1922**

7/30/20 + to Dr. C. B. McAfee

JUL 13 1920

ENGLISH-WALKUP'S GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

FREDERIC G. SCHERER, Minister

Fairfax, Missouri

July 10, 1920.

Candidate Secretary for Alaska,
Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

An article entitled "A Call to Alaska" in the Herald and Presbyter for July 7th has just been noted. Application is herewith made for either the Fairbanks or Cordova church as your judgment of the qualifications may direct.

I was graduated from McCormick Seminary in 1917. The years 1912-1914 were spent in Syria teaching in a High School of our mission. The summer of 1916 I was under the Home Board, Boise Presbytery, Idaho, in a rural church. The Spring following graduation I came to this field, stayed the summer and then went into YMCA work in response to a call through Dr. Cleland B. McAfee and in connection with work at Camp Grant with Dr. John Timothy Stone. Later the work took me to Siberia where I spent 18 months. I returned a year ago and have remained here. The biggest event of this year has been marriage. Mrs. Scherer was graduated from the University of Denver in June this year. She is a successful Christian leader in regular church channels and in city missions, being especially trained for Primary Department work.

We have been planning overseas service but there are circumstances which make it preferable that we accept something not so distant. However, we would plan to go and settle with a view to permanent location. The long pastorate appeals to us

ENGLISH-WALKUP'S GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

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Fairfax, Missouri

as the only fair way and on that basis we ask your consideration.

As to the time when we could start you will appreciate that we must consider the local situation to a reasonable extent. Walkup's Grove is nominally under the Rural Work Department as a Demonstration Parish though the program is wholly undeveloped and I am not directly under that Department.

Probably you have a regular questionnaire which will have to ^{be} filled, etc., but I have recited the above so that you may know whether further consideration seems worth while. The fact that I am Moderator of St. Joseph Presbytery will indicate that my position among the brethren is not unfavorable.

Your early response will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Fred G. Scherer

ENGLISH-WALKUP'S GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

FREDERIC G. SCHERER, Minister

Fairfax, Missouri

References:

Rev. Cleland B. McAfee, D.D., 1 Chalmers Place, Chicago.

Rev. John R. Fraser, D.D., Fairfax, Mo.

Mr. E. T. Colton, YMCA, 347 Madison Avenue, New York.

Rev. A. G. Shriver, formerly of Cordova.

Mr. James Thomson, Fairfax, Mo.

Rev. Edgar P. Hill, D.D., Board of Education.

Rev. David Morgan Roderick, Frederick, Maryland.

July 30, 1920.

Rev. Cleland B. McAfee, D.D., Ph.D.,
McCormick Theological Seminary,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Dr. McAfee:-

The Rev. Frederic G. Scherer of Fairfax, Missouri, has made application to the Board of Home Missions to go to Alaska. The Board recently published a call to Alaska in the Herald and Presbyter and Mr. Scherer's application is in response to this appeal. He refers us to you. Will you kindly give us your judgment as to whether or not Mr. Scherer is in all respects the kind of man to be sent to so difficult and distant place as Alaska where there would be a constant demand for the sanest judgment, a genuine public spirit, and an all-round ability to take care of a struggling church.

I enclose a stamped envelope for reply and would be greatly obliged to you for such information as you can give us.

With sincere respect, I am,

Cordially yours,

JD/I.

(Stamped envelope enclosed)

July 30, 1920.

Rev. Frederic G. Scherer,

Fairfax, Missouri.

My dear Brother:-

Your letter of July the tenth has been put into my hands. I desire to acknowledge its receipt and to say to you that your letter makes an interesting appeal to the Board. In reply it is proper for me to say that since the notice was inserted in the Herald and Presbyter there has been a shift of ministers so far as relates to the Cordova church; that is to say, the Cordova church has indicated a desire to call the Rev. E. L. Winterberger of Skagway. We have not heard from Mr. Winterberger as to whether he is disposed to accept this call, but if he should decide the matter favorably it would be our duty to concur.

The Fairbanks situation is made somewhat chaotic by the steady depletion of the population, yet it is our desire to maintain that field in the hope that when better times come to Alaska that Fairbanks will regain its former prosperity.

We have two other vacancies in Alaska, namely, Wrangell which is really two churches, white and native, worshipping in the same building, and Hyaburg, a purely native church and one of our most promising fields.

Trusting that you and we may be guided in these important matters, I am, with best wishes,

Cordially yours,

AUG 5 - 1920

ONE CHALMERS PLACE
CHICAGO

August 2, 1920.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

Rev. Fred G. Scherer of Fairfax, Mo., is pure gold. He is a brother of George Scherer of Syria. He came to us with some bitterness of spirit from adverse experiences, but went through his three years in the Seminary with steady growth, and went into his pastorate with a fine and aggressive spirit. He was my Secretary during his whole course, and Mrs. McAfee and I hold him in very affectionate regard. With the outbreak of the war, he went into YMCA. service and was sent to the Caucasus, where he did a fine bit of work. They wanted him to return to Russia, but the kind of service which they offered him was not what he felt he could do best, and he stayed in his pastorate. He has been married recently, and I have barely met his wife, so that I am no judge of her qualification for the Alaskan work. But wherever Mr. Scherer goes he will do good service. He is a small man physically and not at all impressive, but he is active and earnest and capable. He is a son of the manse, and showed himself in all his foreign experience a brave and undaunted worker.

Sincerely,

Clarence McAfee

August 18, 1920.

Rev. Fred. G. Scherer,
Fairfax,
Missouri.

My dear Mr. Scherer:

Your letters and the very warm letters of commendation have been referred to me by Dr. Dixon for immediate answer.

We have a proposition which we hope you will accept off-hand. A letter received this morning from the man whom we thought we had secured for Fairbanks, Alaska, declines the appointment for fear that Fairbanks would be too severe a climate.

In this he is mistaken as after having sampled all the climates of Alaska I have fixed upon that of Fairbanks as the most healthful, comfortable and desirable of all in Alaska. It is in the centre of the great wheat belt of Alaska, and while the temperature in the winter reaches as low as 50 or 60 below, the air is so light and dry and still that it is not as hard to bear as zero weather on the coast.

Those who have experienced the climate of the Tanana Valley with one voice prefer it to that of any other climate.

A man has been secured definitely for Cordova. We thought of asking you to take a combined white and Indian charge at Wrangell, the old mother mission of the territory, the first Protestant church organized in Alaska, which I built and organized in 1879.

But the letter I spoke of has decided us to offer you the important interior mission of Fairbanks, which is vacant just now because of the removal of Mr. Marple, who has been pastor thereof for four years, to Anchorage on Cook's Inlet. I built and organized the church of Fairbanks in 1904 when it was a new, big, raw mining camp. There were 10,000 people in the camp then and another 10,000 on the creeks near by.

Just now the population of Fairbanks is at the lowest ebb in fifteen years because of the low price of gold causing the suspension of work on thousands of claims and the high price of machinery, provisions and wages. But Fairbanks is a winner in the long run. A thousand acres of wheat were put in there this summer and a grist mill built. The potatoes, turnips, cabbages and other vegetables and the finest small fruits I have ever seen grow there in abundance. Besides, gold quartz leads have been located and two or three small quartz mills are at work. Other minerals have been found in abundance in that vicinity.

It is, and always will be, the metropolis of interior Alaska. The railroad is to be finished about the Fall of 1921 from the coast to Fairbanks, and there will soon be a great influx, we believe, of farmers to settle on government land there.

The church just now is bravely holding its own, although most of the members have gone, a large number of them, however, only temporarily. There are out-stations near there that need to be fostered. The Methodist church, built after ours, is, we believe, about to hand over its membership to us.

In order to reach Fairbanks in time you ought to start as early as possible, during the first half of September if you can.

On receipt of this letter if you will kindly telegraph us whether you will take up that important field, we will hasten preparations and give you all the information you need about travelling to the field, the things you are to take, etc.

The salary is \$2,000, with a furnished manse, good and comfortable, and the expenses of yourself and family to the field, with a moderate amount of freight. You should take in your library, but no heavy furniture. The markets of Fairbanks are good and more reasonable than the prices you would have to pay on the coast and the cost of freight.

Please let us hear from you by wire and by letter as soon as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

SHY:ES

ENGLISH-WALKUP'S GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

FREDERIC G. SCHERER, Minister

Fairfax, Missouri

August 28, 1920.

My dear Dr. Young,

Your telegram of yesterday puts me in a quandary. You wrote to me in a spirit of challenge to act quickly and I responded to the challenge in the same spirit. I am at a loss to understand whether it is a question of actual authority or merely formal confirmation to which you refer. Every day is vital and a week's delay is seven days of vitality suspended.

My congregations should have due notice. That is one great concern. The other is that we shall have time enough to shove off fully cocked and avoid months^{of}/unnecessary anxiety after arrival.

In view of these things will you kindly wire me *after the Wed. conference* again as soon as possible just what to expect?

Cordially,

Fred G. Scherer

Rev. Dr. S. Hall Young,
Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

ENGLISH-WALKUP'S GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

FREDERIC G. SCHERER, Minister

Fairfax, Missouri

Is mail service regular?

Those are some of the personal questions, all of which are possibly answered is some circular information you may have at hand, or some bulletin that issue to new missionaries.

I am assuming a good deal in regard to the church. I suppose that the spirit of depression is general in the city and in the church. We will have to exercise patience until the "come back". The salary will come through the Home Board. If we have any virtue I believe it is of the plug horse variety that settles down for the long pull. We are facing the situation with that in view. We want to go to Fairbanks with the idea of remaining for ever and a day.

We do not want to weary you with our questions but we just want to avoid errors and oversights. Be assured that we are going and we desire to have our eyes wide open.

Cordially yours,

Fred G. Scherer

Rev. Dr. S. Hall Young,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

September 1st, 1920.

Rev. Fred G. Scherer,
Fairfax, Missouri.

My dear Mr. Scherer:-

Yours of August 24th has been in the office several days and now comes this morning your latter letter of August 28th. Answering the last first, I wish to say that Dr. Dixon in wording his telegram did not intend casting a doubt upon your appointment at all. That is definitely made and nothing remains but to further your arrangements for getting to Fairbanks. I have just addressed the following telegram.

"Office sent you the telegram signing my name. Indefiniteness not mine. No question as to your appointment. Marple here and we both write you today answering all questions and giving you full directions. Easy to go in October via Cordova and stage road. We depend on you."

Mr. Marple has written you a letter and I am supplementing it.

I think you have not yet told us the size of your family, or if you have written this item it has not come to my office. The Board will pay the expenses of yourself and family to the field, and also a reasonable amount of freight. I am enclosing Mr. Marple's estimate of the traveling expenses of one adult from St. Louis to Fairbanks. If you have a U.S. clerical permit that will take you to Seattle at half rate. You cannot get reduced rates from Seattle to Fairbanks. The Board will advance you the money on your traveling expenses and also as much of your salary as you may deem necessary.

It will take you a little over three weeks to travel from your home to Fairbanks. Of course, you will have the privilege of stopping at Denver, or any other point not too far off the line of the railroads. If you go to Denver and take the Oregon Shortline from there to Seattle, it will be just as direct and inexpensive a route as you can take.

There will be no discomfort at all in going across the stage route from Chitina to Fairbanks in October. I have traveled it at worse times and the road has been much improved since I was over it. I found no difficulty. The Road Houses are comfortable and so is the stage. Whether you would go by automobile or by stage sled in October we are not able to say. You go by steamboat from Seattle direct to Cordova, stopping at Juneau, where you will find our General Missionary, Dr. Condit. You will also see Dr. Bruce and Mr. Wagoner, our two missionaries there. You had better write Rev. James H. Condit, D.D., Juneau, Alaska, or Rev. Geo. G. Bruce, D.D., at the same place, or both, asking them what questions you please about the route, etc. It may be also that Dr. Condit will be in Seattle when you get there to personally help you in making purchases, etc. He is at present in the Arctic but ought to be home about the last of September.

The manse at Fairbanks is one of the most comfortable buildings in Alaska. It has electric lights, good stoves and range, cellar, etc. In the Winter for drinking water you will depend upon the water wagon which comes to your door every day. There is also a steampower plant that send warm water in pipes throughout the town, which you can use for other purposes besides drinking. In the Summer you will have a hose which you can use in watering your garden, etc.

The house is comfortably furnished. Mr. Marple has told you about the special articles and he thinks you will also need a new bed, which the church will doubtless provide. There is even bed clothing sufficient in the manse, and Mr. Marple advises putting up to the Ladies Aid Society any other linen, etc that may be needed.

You had better write at once to the Alaska Steamship Company and Pacific-Coast Steamship Company at Seattle, getting the time of the sailing of their vessels.

Any heavy goods other than what you can put in your trunk you had better defer sending until Summer, when you can have them sent by steamship. There are good doctors in Fairbanks.

When you reach Cordova you go by the Copper Valley Railroad 132 miles to Chitina. There you take the stage line on the Government road 310 miles to Fairbanks. Mr. Marple thinks that the automobile stage will be running in October and you will traverse that 310 miles in four days or less.

The church at Fairbanks is by no means moribund. There will always be a nucleus of fine Christian people there. At present the Presbyterian Church is the only Protestant denomination doing work at Fairbanks, although there are Episcopal and Methodist church buildings. Negotiations are being carried on now through the Home Missions Council to unite all of these in one church, the Presbyterian. We hope that this movement will succeed.

If you have endured the Winter of Siberia you will certainly enjoy the much better climate of Fairbanks. I have never found any other climate anywhere else which suited me as well as that.

Get a letter from your Presbytery to the Presbytery of Yukon and transfer the members of your family to the Fairbanks church.

I must congratulate you upon your good fortune in going to Fairbanks. Of all the churches to which I have ministered in Alaska and which I have founded, Fairbanks is my favorite. I hope to see you there next Summer. Please write to me soon.

Very sincerely yours,

September 1st, 1920.

Rev. Frederick G. Scherer,

Fairfax, Missouri.

My dear brother:-

Dr. Young asks that I address a letter to you, which I gladly do. Let us get right down to actualities and answer some of the questions that are in your mind.

The manse at Fairbanks is furnished. You may need to add somewhat to what is there. There is a chair which Mrs. Marple bought, costing \$37.50, left to be disposed of to you or to the church. There are tools for which I paid Rev. Geo. G. Bruce, now of Juneau, \$20, and to which I have made some additions that I like you also to buy for \$20. Not buying them I will have them forwarded to me at Anchorage.

The relative cost of clothing is somewhat cheaper than in the States. Food stuffs you may pay a trifle more for. Dr. Biegler leads the choir and will give you efficient medical attention if that is needed.

Fairbanks is on the Government railroad between Neenana and Chatineka and they are running trains between Fairbanks and Neenana daily. Mail service is good in the Summer and possible in the Winter.

Having answered your questions, could I suggest to you that in going into Fairbanks you make a special effort to have the trustees keep up and maintain the monthly pledge of \$70 towards the pastor's salary. Should this prove to be impossible, for the work's sake do the best you can. Also may I advise your taking regular stated times and visiting the outlying fields such as Chatineka, Esther, Fairbanks Creek and the rest, even doing this at the expense of some of the Sabbath or mid-week's services if necessary.

Will send through full, complete hearty and up-to-the-minute congratulations for having inherited the charge at Fairbanks. It is the greatest spot in Alaska for climate, for good will and for work. You will like the people of Fairbanks and find them ready to help you and to do nearly everything you will ask. Should you find it necessary to confer with me about anything address me Anchorage, Alaska and know that I am always yours to command.

Sincerely,

(F. G. Scherer)

SEP 10 1920 (afternoon mail)

ENGLISH-WALKUP'S GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

FREDERIC G. SCHERER, Minister

Fairfax, Missouri

September 6, 1920.

Scherer

Dear Dr. Young,

The letters from yourself and Mr. Dingle are very satisfying in their content. We are already thinking of the time when you will visit us in our Fairbanks home. We can dispose of such heavy furniture as we have but we will want to take some of the better linen and possibly a few dishes. I believe that you will understand what consolation there would be in having the library there earlier than next summer. Our total freight will not exceed a thousand pounds and it will be in small pieces. Is there not some way to transport these things immediately in such a manner and via a route as will be satisfactory to the Board? We have no place to store things and we will feel settled so much the quicker if we can handle them at once. If it is not of the question to transport them to Fairbanks this winter, could they go at once to some Alaskan port and await forwarding?

There are just two of us--Mrs. Scherer and me. The estimate of railway expense is rather accurate not including the late increase. It will require \$100 for a person, Fairfax to Seattle. (Fairfax is near St. Joseph rather than St. Louis, MO.) In regard to an advance to cover expenses, please permit a further question. Do "expenses" include meals, berths, hotels, etc. incidental to continuous travel? Also, does salary begin when we arrive on the field or does it begin when we are actually on the way? These matters somewhat control the amount that might be asked for an advance. Too, it will mesh straight bookkeeping. Of course I will use my clergy permit as far as possible. The best estimate I can make would require a minimum advance of \$500. I would feel much easier with \$700. That amount would avoid possibility of ~~embarrassment~~ ^{embarrassment}.

You are patient and thorough in answering questions, and I hope I do not weary you unnecessarily. We are delighted with the prospects as described. The opportunity given in importance with the report you give of it. I have written to ~~Stamand~~ ^{Stamand} ~~convenient~~ ^{convenient} and will write to Dr. Condit when I can tell him a little more of definite plans. He will go just the first possible sailing after October 1st.

Cordially yours,

Fred G. Scherer

R. S. Nickerson

Rev. Dr. S. H. Hall Young,
Special Representative,
New York City.

*Mr Schenck indicated that this copy
was for the Board, J.H.C.*

January 6, 1921.

Dear Dr. Condit,

I am replying at once to yours of December 10th to supplement my quarterly report recently forwarded and to reply in some detail to your inquiry regarding local financial support.

Briefly, the church will plan to aid in their Pastor's salary exactly as they have this year, which is not at all. Although I have no contract with the Home Board, yet in our correspondence it was clearly stated that they assume the entire payment of \$2000 per year salary. They also have on their files a telegram from the local Board of Trustees stating that they will assure no salary support. The telegram was in the hands of the Board at the time they offered me this church.

I also want you to know that the Home Board made the statement that there is a furnished house here. Since our arrival the Board of Trustees have assumed nearly \$300 for improvements to make the place habitable. To make it comfortable they will have to undertake twice that in undertaking the next year. In other words they are "padding the face" of the Home Board. And they have undertaken these improvements entirely on their own initiative. So much for your information.

*What
does he
mean?
J.H.C.*

May I outline to you my program for the next six ~~xxx~~ months? Our supplies have just arrived for Departmental Lessons in the Bible School. In February we will have a Father and Son banquet in connection with the Bible School activities.

We shall attempt an Easter in-gathering in March along the lines suggested by the Boards. The week March 20-27 we will have nightly meetings. Of course, the Congregational meeting and Every Member Canvas will come in March also.

During this month I hope to revive the Boy Scouts and assume the leadership of that organization.

Our church leaders are pledged to the support of a four week's Daily Vacation Bible School, in June or July.

For my own amusement and for purposes of "cultivation" I am curling and acting as Chaplain in the A.F. & A.M., having been appointed as such for the current term.

With none of which information I would burden you if it did not seem pertinent to the matter in hand. However, I realize that it is not the formal missionary work--so many "visits", a prescribed number of "services", etc. Our opportunity is to be big enough to absorb the community into our church. The spiritual welfare of the entire town--except Catholics--rests upon this church. And in my humble judgment it cannot be done by urging the entire Christian body to become Presbyterians. The sore point in cooperative work is just the fact that all approaches along community lines have been made in that spirit. (I should modify that statement to read "apparently". For our Christian friends--Episcopal and Methodist--shy and flee until they are assured that cooperation does not mean Presbyterian church membership.)

Terrible evidences of cooperation are such as a promise of a Junior choir leadership; two organists already on the job; a gift to our Christmas foreign mission offering. These little favors and helps are coming from the Episcopalians. Also, in conversation with Mr. Drane, following a union service with him, he agreed that we might well visit the points formerly a part of the work for their Fairbank's minister. I shall investigate at once and make such visits within the next sixty days.

The Methodist organization is defunct but they are cautious about transferring their membership. However, their remaining membership of ten or a dozen is divided into two factions if not more and we draw support from one faction only at the present.

My conviction is that if we can show these two congregations they are not going to be urged into affiliation every time we meet them, sooner or later they will ask for it of their own accord. At any rate we can have cooperation with them.

Under these conditions there seems to be but one conclusion, divided into two parts in point of time. For the present we can be assured of financial support from only about a dozen people with incomes, one-third of whom are our own church members. They cannot contribute to the salary of their minister. This I know--they will not make a pledge for the next fiscal year. If, however, our plans for the next six or eight months meet even fifty per cent. of our expectation, we will be able to assume local obligation for a small amount. The Board of Trustees is anxious to do this at the earliest possible moment.

It is unfortunate that there is no background or knowledge of the value of my judgment. Nevertheless, there are enough facts at hand from my personal judgment from which to make your own conclusions. I am sending two copies of this letter, thinking that you can forward one copy to New York if you think it advisable. The local Board is also sending information to New York.

Mrs. Scherer joins me in best wishes for the New Year.

Cordially,



Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.
Juneau, Alaska.

Manse Furnishings--Fairbanks.

1. One cook stove, one cook stove ⁱⁿ cache, little value, two large heaters, one medium, two small.
- 2 One double iron bed, two single iron beds, springs for same, mattresses for single beds. Three dressers, Commode in bath room, sufficient chairs for bed rooms. Pillows, some lined, and some bedding.
3. Dining room furniture consisting of table (very poor) couch (poor) two chairs, sourdough side board (pretty good) some lined.
4. Living room table, bookshelves, high rack, three wood chairs, two rockers, four pictures, small table, organ, bed lounge,
5. Study desk, chair, plain shelves, forty books.
6. Kitchen cabinet, table, one chair, odds and ends knives and forks, enamel ware, heavy white dishes, etc., etc.
7. A sewing machine.

Copy

January 22, 1921

Rev. Fred G. Scherer,

Fairbanks, Alaska.

My dear Brother:

It would appear from your letter of January 6th, which has just been received, that you interpreted my letter of inquiry regarding the financial outlook at Fairbanks, for the coming year, as somewhat of an impertinence. I assure you that I had no such thought in mind. In the first place I did not know that the Fairbanks church had notified the New York office that they could not continue payments on the ministers' salary. In the next place, had I known it, I would have written about as I did on the hope that under the stimulation of a new administration and the combination of all religious elements in Fairbanks into one congregation it would be possible for the people to do something in the way of self support. Do not be unduly disturbed in regard to the salary. The Board will live up to its promise and pay the entire salary of \$2,000, if that was the understanding. I do not doubt but that you have been receiving your monthly checks on that basis. I still venture to express the hope that in the maturing of your plans, as you suggest, the church may be able to do at least something in the way of self support.

I also take it that you were not pleased with the furnishing of the manse. I am surprised to learn that it is necessary to invest some \$900 in order to make it habitable. Mr. Marple said nothing which would lead me to know that the "heavier and more permanent articles" which is what the Board agrees to furnish, and which are more definitely indicated in the regulation for manse furnishing, copy of which I recently sent you, were not in the building. I wish to be more definitely informed as to just what was lacking and just what the \$900 is to be used for, since it is my duty to keep informed as to the condition of the manses.

The matter of expense I understand from our personal experience at Fairbanks. The prices are just about what we paid when there. We also "preferred" the packed eggs to the fresh ones. I believe that you will find, as we did, that the garden is a great asset in reducing living expenses.

Your plans are interesting and commendable. It seems to me that you are exactly right in not urging organic union overmuch. The one church ought to be an acceptable church home to all Christian people and I believe, with you, that it can be made of such a character that all Christian people can and will desire membership affiliation in time. Hoping to hear from you again soon at your convenience and with best regards to Mrs. Scherer and all friends, I am

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

REPORT OF MISSIONARY FOR QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31ST

Please forward this report to the Secretary promptly after the date mentioned

Name of Missionary Fred G. Scherer P. O. Address { Fairbanks
Yukon Alaska
 Name of Presbytery _____

STATISTICAL REPORT

In the *Statistical Report*, under "Names of Churches and Stations," please write the name of each preaching place, following each in the spaces on the same line with information as to the quarter's work.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND STATIONS	PREACHING SERVICES				OTHER SERVICES				MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR MISSIONARY STUDY AND PRAYER		Number of Pastoral Calls	MEMBERS RECEIVED		BAPTISMS	
	SABBATH		MID-WEEK		SABBATH		MID-WEEK		SUBJECTS	Ave. Att.		On Ex.	OnCer.	Adult	Infant
	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.							
Fairbanks	18	40			8	12	C. E.				20				/
					9	62	Bible School								

GENERAL REPORT

In the *General Report*, please give some details of the various departments of the work, with its trials and encouragements, and any facts or incidents that will inform the Board as to the field, or interest the Home Mission givers throughout the Church at large. **Both sides of this sheet may be used.**

We arrived only for the last Sunday of October. The manse was warm and we were given a cordial reception.

The last Sunday of November we designated Rally Day in all departments. Splendid response was given in all services.
 second

The ~~xxxx~~ Sunday of November was observed as Memorial Day with the American Legion present in a body at the morning service, upon their own initiative.

We were called upon to conduct the funeral ceremony of a famous colored prostitute. As a result the catholic spirit of the church includes one colored gentleman worshipping regularly at the morning service.

Our principal diversion is "cultural" work at present until we can get well acquainted with the people of the community.

The Christmas season has caused a rise in the stocks of the church. A tree was ready for Christmas Eve, and of course the little auditorium was packed. Sunday evening, the 26th, we arranged a musical program, together with "Star Makers" and "Christmas Magic" prepared by the Foreign Board. Another full house. The total gift to the Board will be over \$50. The Camp Fire Girls of the public school contributed \$11 to this fund, which is notable

in itself, and doubly notable in that the gift was made upon the recommendation of one of the teachers who is an Episcopalian. That will indicate the cooperation that we are having from them.

(The subject of organic union is "verboden" from overwork. Put cooperation is only developing in its possibilities.)

Local financial support is out of the question at present. However, something over \$266 has been put into the manse since our arrival.

The visible church membership is 42. The Bible School enrollment is about 112, including everything from cradle roll to home department.

We have no worry except the matter of putting income and expense on speaking terms. They are hardly within hailing distance at present. We are, therefore, quite unorthodox at the point of "being free from worldly cares." The following will illustrate: Fresh eggs, per doz. \$2.50 (The only one we have eaten was given to us specifically for Christmas breakfast).

Sugar, per lb. .26
Apples, per each, .10
Dried fruit, per lb. .50
Milk, per quart, .35
Butter, per lb., \$1.00

And along the same line wood is \$14 per cord this year.

We have not the least chance of a fall in prices until next ~~fall~~ autumn, no matter what happens in the great "outside".

Church Subscription

TO ACCOMPANY THE

APPLICATION FOR AID

TO

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 Fifth Avenue, New York

SYNOD OF *Washington*

Presbytery of *Yukon* Church of *Fairbanks*

SUGGESTIONS

We would call attention to a rule adopted by the General Assembly in 1899 and which is as follows:

"All applications for aid for the same amount as was received the year before shall be sent back by the Presbyteries for revision to the churches making application, and the Presbyteries shall insist that if possible, a reduction be made in the amount applied for."

Further: There are few congregations in city or country but can give on an average at least five dollars per member towards the Pastor's salary. Many mission churches give more. The Board, therefore, cannot ordinarily give favorable consideration to churches which give less.

Every church member and every member of the congregation should be asked to give his or her full proportion of the Pastor's salary. In addition to such subscriptions, organizations within the church may become contributors, the same as an individual.

Two copies of the original subscription list must be made and forwarded with the application for aid to the Chairman of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery. One copy will be retained by the Committee, and the other will be forwarded to the Board of Home Missions.

Self-support at the earliest possible moment should be the aim of every Home Mission church. Important fields, which now are neglected, will thus be helped the sooner. For the sake of the more needy, as well as for the joy of being helpers rather than helped, let every church press toward this end.

AGREEMENT

We, whose names are written herein, agree to give the amount set opposite
our respective names towards the ~~salary of the minister of the~~ *current expenses* *Past*
Presbyterian Church of *Fairbanks* for the year
beginning *March 1, 1921* to be paid weekly or monthly.

NAMES	AMOUNT for year	WEEKLY OR MONTHLY
Anderson, Andrew	50.00	Weekly
Beegler, Aline Bradley	24.00	monthly
Clegg, Jessie M.	26.00	Weekly
Groves, Mrs. J. H.	26.00	do
Hatch, William	13.00	do
Knuppe, Mrs. M.	48.00	monthly
Lavery, Robert	30.00	do
Larsen, L. E.	65.00	weekly
Moore, Mrs. J. G.	10.00	
McCarty, Mrs. Mary	12.00	monthly
Tonseth, Thos.	25.00	weekly
Tonseth, E. A.	25.00	do
Taylor, E. M.	60.00	monthly
Ladies Aid Society	60.00	"
Young Peoples Society	50.00	
Total	\$524.00	

APPLICATION FOR AID
TO THE
Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Synod of Washington

Presbytery of Yukon

Missionary in charge, Rev. Fred G. Schurer Address Painbanke
His salary is \$2000 for 12 months from March 31, 1921 The helpers are:

The congregations of the district promise to contribute for all purposes during the year beginning April 1, 191 , the sum of \$.....; of which about \$.....will be needed for their current expenses; and they pledge the sum of \$.....toward the salaries, rents and travel. The amount contributed last year by the district for current expenses was \$.....and for salaries, rents and travel, \$.....

There is a manse. Rent of manse, paid by the _____, is \$_____ per month.

The prospects of growth are *normal*

The other denominations represented in the district, with their respective memberships, are as follows:

Episcopal 18; Methodist 11; (P.C. $\frac{2}{2}$, Christian Science)
No other minister resident.

[illegible]

The foregoing application of the Missionary District of
..... is hereby approved
by the Presbytery of and its Home Mission Committee for \$.....
from to

..... Chairman of Committee.

191

REMARKS BY THE HOME MISSION COMMITTEE

Applications by churches for aid from the Board, requests for application blanks, and all correspondence pertaining to grants should be addressed to CHARLES L. THOMPSON, D.D., 156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

If our community ideals need justification we stand on the principles as stated in the report of the Home Board for last year; also, we keep in mind constantly that ours is the only Protestant church in the community and so try to meet not only Presbyterian but community needs. A small move in this direction is the assuming of responsibility for the activities of a gymnasium that has been unused for two or three years. The Boy Scouts use it two afternoons each week, the High School boys are using it two and three evenings, and the girls two afternoons. We hope gradually to shift this responsibility back where it belongs--to the public school.

A preliminary conference on the Daily Vacation Bible School resulted in finding leadership sufficient to undertake a four week's school from the middle of June to the middle of July.

In connection with the Easter season we should have added that it was cheering to be greeted with a capacity house Easter morning. The Knights Templar attended in full regalia and a few people accepted standing room. The Bible School attendance on that morning was 95, and we had no specially advertised program.

APR 11 1921

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

April 2, 1921

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

Under date January 22, 1921, I wrote you enclosing a duplicate copy of a letter from Rev. F.G. Scherer, our new man at Fairbanks, in which he voiced dissatisfaction with the furnishings of the manse at Fairbanks and the representations of the Board thereto.

I am herewith enclosing a copy of his reply to my letter as also of my letter of today to him.

It is evident that he spoke hastily of the manse furnishings. Perhaps he had not appreciated, before, the conditions which frontier ministers must meet. The Condit family would have been mighty glad to have had a house so well furnished as he found when he arrived at Fairbanks. Our furniture, while located there for five years, was of the home made variety and at that was largely furnished by ourselves.

This, however, is not important. More important is that of the attitude of the church toward its support. I can not believe that they are unable to do anything toward the support of their minister. Up to the time of Mr. Marple's removal they raised \$70 per month for minister. Since that time some of the best supporters of the church have removed and the whole condition is discouraging from the financial point of view. But, that does not mean that they should lie down on the assumption that they can do nothing along this line.

I hope that the trustees there will be ready to pledge at least something towards Mr. Scherer's support.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter to Mr. Scherer asking him to give at least one Sunday a month to Nenana. Mr. Diven, as you know, is removing to Wrangel, in S.E. Alaska, to take charge there. He represents the conditions at Nenana as so discouraging in point of numbers and support that it does not seem advisable to him that a man shall be placed there this year. It is belief that in another year there will be such a revival of business as to warrant again commissioning a man for that point. I am therefore asking Mr. Scherer to give such attention as he can to the field during the period of vacancy and to statedly, once a month, give a Sunday to them. This he can do easily as there is railroad connection between the two places.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Copy

April 2, 1921.

Rev. Federic G. Scherer,
Fairbanks,
Alaska.

Dear Mr. Scherer:

You have learned of the removal of Dr. Diven from Nenana to take up work in S.E. Alaska. This has been made necessary by the present condition, financially and in point of population as well. It is his thought that for the coming year, at least, the situation does not warrant the commissioning of a man for that field. He also expresses the belief that by the close of the year the situation will change so that a man may be again commissioned for the Nenana work. I sincerely hope that he is correct in this view. The outcome of all that has been put into Nenana, not only by the Board, but also by the people who have located there under hopes created by the government representations, is most disheartening.

However, we have to face the situation as it is.

Now, the question is how to provide for the Nenana people during the interval.

Fortunately the railroad is in operation between Fairbanks and Nenana and furnishes easy communication between the two places. The Board will therefore ask you to give a portion of your time to Nenana. It would seem advisable that you hold a regular monthly service there and I would suggest that you have a regular appointment for some specific Sunday during each month so that the people both at Fairbanks and Nenana may know what to depend on. The Nenana offerings ought to take care of the matter of expense. Of this you will make report later.

Will you also keep me informed as to matters at Nenana. I understand that Mr. Divens was going to see that the manse was left in proper shape to safeguard the property belonging to the Board and left therein. Also that he would ask some one to be responsible for the safe care of the Board's property until such time as we may find it advisable to place a man there. Will you also please report as to the condition of things in a property way.

I have no doubt but that the people at Fairbanks will not be especially pleased with the prospect of your stated absence. But, the condition is an emergency made so by financial and economic conditions in that whole section. The Board, in providing for its work, must do the best that it can, and for the present this seems to be to divide the time of its representative in the interior between these two points. I am sure that some arrangement may be made by which the Fairbanks church shall not be without a service on the day that you are absent.

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEVENTH AND CUSHMAN
FREDERIC G. SCHERER, MINISTER
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

PLEASE RETURN TO
JAMES H. CONDIT
JUNEAU, ALASKA.

March 16, 1921.

Dear Dr. Diven:

I want to thank you first of all for your interest in our welfare and for your effort to make us efficient for the best possible service. Mrs. Scherer and I are both sorry that we would not offer--even insist upon--greater hospitality while you were here. When we get the chance in proper shape we will hope to see you bring Mrs. Diven to the Interior and the chance at Fairbanks for a visit.

Herewith are the blanks filled out and we are saying nothing about the community being able to increase the income of the poor preacher. I am sure that Dr. Condit and Mr. Mayrle will heartily endorse \$2000 from the Board and it seems better not to disturb their endorsement for this year. Frankly, I do not believe that the extra salary or bonus or gift or what not that is supposed to augment our income will ever be more than talk. I expect to continue to urge the "talk" however, hoping that it may result in something more substantial. In any case there seems to be no warrant for bringing it before the Home Mission Committee, or the Home Board.

Mr. Hering will be with the minstrel troupe and you may have an opportunity to discuss the matter with him again. He is the key man to any extra effort that will be made locally.

I am wondering if you will add to the request the work at Nenana. Perhaps that might effect our request in total amount asked for this district. I have omitted certain spaces where you can fill in if that is necessary.

I had thought that it might be possible for me to come down to Nenana on the Sunday excursion but that is proving out of the question. Next week we have a series of meetings--pre-Easter, for which I am not ready. After that, if it is at all possible, I will come to see you before you get away.

With kindly good wishes,

Cordially,

Fred G. Scherer

Rev. Robert Joseph Diven, D.D.,
Nenana, Alaska.

Copy

(Letter to J.H.C. from Rev. Fred Scherer, Fairbanks, Alaska, under date March 15, 1921)

Dear Dr. Condit:

I have delayed reply to yours of January 22nd until I could get more information in regard to the financial outlook for the coming year. But first let me say that the details I gave you in a previous letter were not meant as an "impertinence" and that I was only trying to give you information covering our situation. I agree with you perfectly and so understand that you should be informed and that your recommendations are the ones on which the Board in New York is supposed to act. Evidently my phraesology was unhappy to convey a wrong impression.

We have completed our canvass for the coming year and have secured a little more than \$500 in pledges. We feel that this amount is an encouragement in view of the small number of contributors and the exceedingly small incomes of our membership. The plans that I outlined to you have been realized satisfactorily and we are enlisting the cooperation of practically the entire Christian community in various enterprises. And there is some hope of wider church support as the year goes by on.

In regard to the manse, I should have stressed the fact that the people of the church were not satisfied with the furnishings and voluntarily supplied three new carpets and one bed. That, with some smaller items, caused an expenditure of approximately \$300. As for the rest, they have ambitions to put in a furnace this summer. They have a chance to buy a coal furnace at a reduced figure and it will soon be necessary to buy new stoves, etc. It would seem an opportune time to make the change. But it would only be possible locally if they can secure assistance from those who are not now giving in any way to the support of the church. So it would not effect the regular support. I do wish to make myself clear that we have never complained of any of the accommodations.

Dr. Diven will be able to give you a full verbal report of conditions. He spent three days with us and was present at our congregational meeting.

If it is not too late I have just learned that I committed the following amounts from my report to Assembly--a total of \$35 for benevolences. Home Missions, \$10; Foreign Missions \$8; General Education \$4; Pub. and S.S. Work \$1; Church Election \$4; Relief and Sustentation \$3; Freedmen \$4; Temperance \$1; Evangelism \$1; A.B.S. \$1.

With fraternal greetings to Presbytery, I am

Cordially,

(signed) Fred G. Scherer.

April 2, 1921

Rev. Frederic G. Scherer,
Fairbanks,
Alaska.

Dear Mr. Scherer:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 15th and note with great interest the encouraging report as to the progress of the work under your guidance at Fairbanks.

The items which you had omitted from the annual report for Assembly have been added to the same. I understand that this is supplemental and in addition to your former report.

I still feel that my interpretation of your letter of January 6th, from which I gathered that you were not satisfied with the manse furnishings, was justified by your statement, as follows:

"I also want you to know that the Home Board made the statement that there is a furnished manse here. Since our arrival the Board of Trustees have assumed nearly \$300 for improvements to make the place habitable. To make it comfortable they will have to undertake twice that amount during the next year. In other words they are "saving the face" of the Home Board. And they have taken these improvements entirely on their own initiative. So much for your information"

Not only so but was I not also justified in understanding from the above that you felt that there had been misrepresentation on the Board in regard to the manse being furnished? Otherwise I would not know how to interpret the expression "saving the face".

I am enclosing a list of furniture in the manse at the time Mr. Marple left which would indicate that the house was certainly not without furniture. I have similar lists of all furnishings in our manses.

While I am glad that the people there have put in the new carpets, an item the Board does not agree to furnish, and are planning to also put in a furnace, I must take exception to your intimation that the Board had failed in its representations.

May I again urge that the church assume at least some part of your salary. Will this not be possible in view of the amount pledged? It will not be a good thing for the church to be relieved from all share in its minister's support and I believe that the Board may rightfully expect that the church shall do something. While you have lost heavily in supporting members and probably should not be expected to provide the \$70 per month toward pastor's support

April 2, 1921

which was contributed under the former pastorate, in view of the changed conditions, yet it seems to me that you ought to pledge some definite sum toward the support of the minister. I presume that you can count on quite an addition to your receipts from the basket collections. Also, the coming in of the Episcopal element ought to add something to your revenue.

In any event I would urge that your official board give this matter their careful consideration. Will you kindly report to me their decision.

With kind regards to Mrs. Scherer and the Fairbanks friends, I remain

Cordially yours,

PLEASE RETURN TO
JAMES H. CONDIT
JUNEAU, ALASKA.

United States Post Office

CLASS

FAIRBANKS ALASKA

April 5 21

Dr. J. A. Condit

Dear Friend

I am dropping you these few lines to let you know the situation here and our feelings concerning church matters.

Things have greatly changed here since you left. The creeks are no longer the centers of activity, and our town is quite a winter resort for miners families. We have a good winter population and many visitors during the summer. Living is much higher than when you were here and other local commodities being far greater than a few years ago.

We do not feel that two thousand dollars per year is a salary sufficient to meet the demands of a good man, and we do not want any other here.

As members of the church, we feel that we have not been treated just right, we had a strong and much loved man in Mr Marple and were doing nicely, He was removed to the coast without a word to us, our church was locked up and only thro8 an accident did we get a man at all.

I dont know why you consider a lot of Eskimo more worthy of spending Home board money on than growing white children and miners.

If our Alaskan Ministers were paid a decent wage we could keep them, I would not blame Mr Marple, Dr Divan, or Mr Sherer if they threw up their jobs tomorrow and went to cutting wood or teaching school.

I think your recommendation would change this situation, If the board wont allow you sufficient funds why not cut out one or more fields and make the laborer's hire worthy of a good man, and now I am getting to the kernal of the nut, I am afraid our man will not stay on at present wages. He is the best fitted man for the camp under present conditions that I could imagine could be secured. He

delivers a good sermon, well chosen and full of truths is not afraid of calling clack, clack. He has had a valued experience in rural work and will fit in with our new conditions nicely. He has already anchored the boy scouts and will probably have the camp fire girls auxiliaries to our work, then we will establish a ^{daily} summer bible school for two month, and several other projects are contemplated.

When I say he is making good, I am expressing it mild, we come nearer a union with the other two churches than ever in history, all the St. Matts come and have united personally tho not officially.

For the future I feel safe in saying we can come back strong with aid to the Board in another year, we are buildin up a strong following of young folks and as the town comes back we will go ahead, you know we always have done our best when conditions permitted and refused the refund of the Board when we found with a little more effort we could get along, and if you had not permitted the church to be closed and our support to dwindle, we would still be on the map, we will have to ask the board to continue paying salary till we have caught up again, and I hope you will use all your influence to see that the salaries are raised, If we loose our man I for one am ready to let the Methodists take hold and join with them till our people

can afford to pay a good man to stay. You know they offered to send a twenty five hundred dollar man and pay all salary if we did not get a man, now that we have a good man let us keep him. I think you will hear the best reports from Fairbanks in the next few years that come out of Alaska.

With the very best wishes for the success of the conference
I am Your Friend and Co-worker

E. A. Sterling
President Board of Trustees.

June 21, 1921.

Dear Dr. Marquis,

With reference to the salary adjustment for Fairbanks.

Mr. Bank. About three months ago the Treasurer of the Board informed me that you would communicate in regard the salary. Dr. Condit informs me that salary adjustment will need to be made directly as he will be in Ft. Barrow during the summer. I have your telegram of some weeks ago stating that you would write and for me to await your letter. I presume your letter or letters have gone astray, inasmuch as I have heard nothing direct from you.

I understand the situation in the Home Board finances. But, was not the Home Board aware of the deficit when it said there was enough to guarantee the full salary for Fairbanks, last October? I assume they did. Did not the Home Board receive communications from Fairbanks saying that there was no support possible locally? I assume they did. Upon these assumptions I wired you for continuance of full salary for another year, or immediate release. There is still no other alternative. The situation is unchanged.

Meanwhile, I assume that checks will continue in the full amount, in accordance with your telegram to me. The real adjustment ought to be a sharing of the burden among three Boards: Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian. We are doing the work for all three--after a fashion. But I suppose that is impossible.

Very truly,

Fred G. Scherer

Rev. Dr. John A. Marquis,
Board of Home Missions,
New York City.

*to Dixon - please
investigate reply*

Regarding general conditions I believe it should be a matter of record that the hoped for influx of people and business has failed to materialize. Business men agree that they are doing less than they did this time last year.

There is but little mining adjacent to Fairbanks and the prospector cannot return until there is a greater readjustment of prices and less of discrepancy between gold and its market value.

Some progress is being made in agriculture. A flour mill is being installed this summer. In general, however, there is an over production or an inability to market produce locally that prevents any great profit in farming.

These conditions should be kept in mind as reports of our work come to the home office. The leading druggist of the town summed up the whole situation when he said, "We are living off of one another in here."

There are but few tourists coming through this year and the only revenue to the town is the salaries of government employees and officials.

The Home Board is working under a delusion and a snare to expect increased returns or greater local support from this district. Nor can we now predict when there will be a change for the better.

July 20, 1921.

Dear Dr. Dixon:

I have your communication of June 16th, together with salary check.

Under date of May 12th Dr. Condit wrote me: "The adjustment of this salary matter will have to be made in New York. . . . My recommendation as chairman of the Home Mission Committee was for the \$2000."

I note that you (The Home Board) are to make the grants in October.

I have twice been informed that Dr. Marquis would enlighten me on this whole matter but his letters do not arrive. Therefore, I am placing the data in your hands.

2 In September 1920 we came to Fairbanks with the understanding that our salary would be paid in full by the Home Board. Less than six months later we are informed, without consultation, - thru Dr. Condit, from New York- that our salary is to be cut in twain. Whereupon I stand up on both hind legs and object, asking either for full salary or transportation to home base. To this date I have received no word explaining any reason to change our salary basis. Dr. Marquis did reply that it would continue for three months. Now your letter tells us it will continue till October. And once again I am constrained to inquire as to why there should be any doubt and why we should constantly be irritated by such policy. I feel that you will take time to reply and one question I would like to have answered is: Does the Home Board consult with its men on the job in the matter of salary? Or, is the amount set arbitrarily in New York? The element of surprise certainly adds spice to life, but one shivers at the idea of being almost at the arctic circle at the mercy of a coal baron.

If the local field is considered then the following may be of interest. We made our canvasses at the regular time. We made it strenuously. We almost made unfriendly adherents in earnest solicitation. But we only secured enough to cover current expenses, exclusive of salary. Since then we have lost six members and there are actually two members of our church who receive a regular income. One is a clerk in a grocery store supporting his father and mother. The other is a mail clerk with a family of ten to support. Other contributors are "adherents" with minimum incomes. If, out of that situation I am to solicit a part of my salary, I must admit failure at once and suggest that a good man be sent in to put the job across.

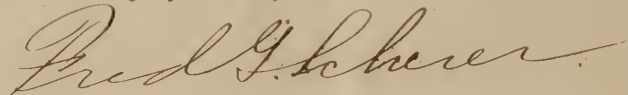
If local expenses are to be considered, then a reduction of the grant is unthinkable. I am \$200 poorer than I was this time last year. And we have one son more to feed. (We were not warned that Home Missionaries were not supposed to have children!) Jest aside, we are using all economy possible and we are barely able to meet expenses. We cannot open our house as it should be to lonely men and women in the

community, because we cannot carry the expanse. We do not know what possible changes in prices will be this fall. Of this I am sure. We will have either to retrench our policy of being a minister to the community (where there is no other Protestant minister) and simply serve the thirty people in our congregation, or we will have to rustle supplementary income.

I am aware that the Board does not have the money coming in this year that it had hoped for; and I appreciate the fact that finances may be very tight; and I am equally aware that the church in Fairbanks is worth a minimum of \$5000 to the Presbyterian church.

This is a frank statement of our conditions and I trust that you will present the matter to the Home Board in person or see that the letter reaches the proper hands.

Very sincerely yours,



Dr. John Dixon,
Acting Treasurer,
Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

July 27, 1921.

Rev. Fred G. Scherer,

Fairbanks, Alaska.

My dear Brother:-

Your letter of June the twenty-first, addressed to Dr. Marquis, has been received and read by him. He desires me to say that you have been telegraphed to, and also notified by the Treasurer's office that your salary would be paid in full by the Board up to the first of October next. We do not despair of the people of Fairbanks doing something this year towards your salary. Should it prove that the forecast of their financial ability was properly made and they are unable to contribute a dollar, the Board will nonetheless see to it that you receive your full salary up to the thirty-first of March next.

In your letter you say, "The real adjustment ought to be a sharing of the burden among three Boards: Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian." We are quite ready for such an adjustment and authorize you to enter into such communication with the Methodists and Episcopalians as may bring about a federation of churches and church services in Fairbanks, if not permanently at least temporarily. Kindly report to us what progress you are able to make in the matter, and believe me to be

JD/I.

Cordially yours,

NOV 4 - 1921

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

REPORT OF MISSIONARY FOR QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH

Please forward this report to the Secretary promptly after the date mentioned

Name of Missionary Fred G. SchererName of Presbytery YukonP. O. Address { Fairbanks
Alaska

STATISTICAL REPORT

In the *Statistical Report*, under "Names of Churches and Stations," please write the name of each preaching place, following each in the spaces on the same line with information as to the quarter's work.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND STATIONS	PREACHING SERVICES				OTHER SERVICES				MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR MISSIONARY STUDY AND PRAYER		Number of Pastoral Calls	MEMBERS RECEIVED		BAPTISMS	
	SABBATH		MID-WEEK		SABBATH		MID-WEEK					On Ex.	OnCer.	Adult	Infant
	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	SUBJECTS	Ave. Att.					
Fairbanks	14	25			12	35			The Near East	12	50				2
Nenana	3	15			1	6									

GENERAL REPORT

In the *General Report*, please give some details of the various departments of the work, with its trials and encouragements, and any facts or incidents that will inform the Board as to the field, or interest the Home Mission givers throughout the Church at large. **Both sides of this sheet may be used.**

The Daily Vacation Bible School, which was in progress at the time of the June report, reached an enrolment of 55, with an average attendance of 38. We plan a larger and better school for next year. The entire expense was not more than \$25, since all of the teaching was done by volunteers.

During August I had 18 boys in a Scout camp for ten days.

In accordance with instructions I have gone to Nenana and tried to hold services. There are only a few people there and the burden falls on two or three families. We have not been able to find a superintendent for a Sunday School. In any case the maximum attendance would be 15. We hope to have church service once a month. However, Fairbanks is without Protestant services on those Sundays.

October 10, 1921.

Dear Dr. Dixon,

Referring to the enclosed report with reference to monthly trips to Nenana for services.

Briefly the situation is this. The Episcopal Church has an Indian mission at Nenana with a Priest in charge, but at present they do not have services for the white population. Our church plant is there without services regularly.

In Fairbanks there is an Episcopal Church in such condition that their Vestry are not willing to repair it for services this winter. There is no Priest here, but they have their church organization, more or less active, about equal in strength to ours.

Would it be feasible or practical to trade Nenana field for Fairbanks? We have no working organization in Nenana that is primarily Presbyterian, except by adoption. It could as well be Episcopal. I feel sure that we could merge our organizations in Fairbanks if the Bishop would tell the people not to expect a Priest. In plain speech, the people of this country will do in religious matters just about what they are told to do.

I am not sure whose sphere of activity this matter lies within, and a copy of the suggestion goes to Dr. Condit. So far as human prophecy can forecast Fairbanks will be a town of 1000 people for years to come and Nenana (white) about 500. There is nothing at stake but efficiency for the Kingdom of God. And that is enough, so that I offer the suggestion.

Very truly yours,

Fred G. Scherer.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
New York City,

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

NOV 28 1921

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEVENTH AND CUSHMAN
FREDERIC G. SCHERER, MINISTER
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

November 7, 1921.

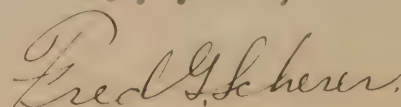
Dear Dr. Marquis,

Word has just come to us that Dr. Condit has accepted a call to head the Sheldon Jackson school at Sitka. The news has started a whole train of ideas that have been switching around for months. At the outset, however, I admit the possibility of wide differences of opinion, not about Dr. Condit but about the ideas as set forth below.

In connection with Dr. Condit's resignation as General Missionary has come the suggestion that Dr. Young will assume more active control of the affairs in the Territory. That would seem an admirable arrangement if he could have headquarters in Juneau and somehow relate the wishes ~~and~~ the Board to the field, and the conditions of the field to the Board. Dr. Young, however, is getting feeble enough that he ought not to be required to travel great distances. He is mentally alert enough that his administration of Alaskan affairs would meet with almost universal approval. My suggestion is to add to his experience and administrative ability youth and strength to carry on field work for him. I am strongly of the opinion that there is specific need along two lines for a field man. First, there is need of coordinated endeavors and more nearly uniform campaigns in the Alaskan churches. At present we have practically no value from the educational secretaries of various boards, nor from films, nor slides, etc. There is wide opportunity for development along this line. Second, there are new camps springing up where there is no ministration, and where no minister can be stationed. Yet a visit would do a great deal to smooth the rough edges of Alaskan life. A third point might be added, but it is probably within the realm of the Board's activities, viz., better comity among the churches already operating. Constant watchfulness would avoid duplication and oversight alike. These things are in my mind as of great need at the present time. The completion of the railroad adds another feature that will demand especial attention. The list could be enlarged indefinitely. I believe such an arrangement would pay out financially and spiritually.

Furthermore, to be perfectly frank, I feel that I have the qualities necessary to undertake that kind of work. I will willingly admit that there is nothing startling about our record in Fairbanks to warrant a larger territory to wear in but our previous total experience has fitted us for the kind of task above outlined. Even if it were necessary to act as a field representative directly under the New York office, the position would be of paramount importance. We have the combination of enthusiasm and judgment that would yield results. I have never before laid claim to any position but this one stands out so obviously that I could not refrain the venture of the suggestion. Or, leaving us out of the situation, the plan above outlined under the operation of a satisfactory person is yet the outstanding need in the church affairs of Alaska.

Very sincerely yours,



Rev. Dr. John. A. Marquis,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

November 10, 1921.

Rev. F. G. Scherer,
Fairbanks, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Scherer:-

Your letter of October the tenth has been received, and also your quarterly report for which we sincerely thank you.

Your suggestion that there should be an exchange in relation to Nenana and Fairbanks impresses Dr. Marquis as well as myself favorably. It is his judgment that you should be advised not to take any further steps in bringing about such an exchange or in creating an opinion favorable to it until we have had an opportunity to get the opinion either of the Presbytery or of the Home Mission Committee and of Dr. Condit in regard to it. We are glad that you have written Dr. Condit concerning it. As soon as we hear from the Presbytery, we shall be pleased to take the matter up with the Episcopal authorities here.

With heartiest appreciation of your devoted and valued labors, I am, with best wishes,

Cordially yours,

JD/1.

November 10, 1921.

Rev. S. Hall Young, D.D.,
C/o Rev. E.E. Bromley,
Bayview, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Young:-

I am enclosing a copy of a letter
which I am sending to Rev. F. G. Scherer, and also,
copy of a letter which I am writing to Dr. Condit.

Dr. Marquis desires that you should
be informed of what is being considered and would
be glad to have your judgment in regard to the sit-
uation.

Hoping that you are well, and with
all good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Enclosures-
JD/I.

November 28, 1921.

Rev. Fred. G. Scherer,
Fairbanks,
Alaska.

My dear Mr. Scherer:

I thank you very much for your letter of November 7th in regard to Dr. Young and the work in Alaska. Your points are all well taken. The Board has had before it for some time past the request from the brethren in Alaska for a sort of pastor or evangelist at large. We have not been able to grant this request on account of our shortage of funds.

I have a feeling that our whole work in Alaska needs a thorough reorganization of some sort. I may be entirely mistaken in this as I have never been in Southwestern Alaska and only know of the situation there through the letters from you good brethren who are on the field, and the representations of travellers. For this year we will have to, on account of the condition of the treasury, let things go along as they are.

I agree with you that for Dr. Young to be there permanently, or for any extended time, is out of the question. Please do not say this to him as it would break the dear old man's heart. He wants to spend the rest of his life in Alaska, which he loves with the passionate longing of Israel in Babylonian captivity. It has been in my own mind to have him stay there this winter and until next Fall and in the meantime we could go over the situation and try to find a successor. I am grateful to you for your own willingness to undertake the task of a pastor or evangelist at large. We will give it due consideration as we make our budget next year. I say this with the understanding that we may have to cut still further. Times are exceedingly hard here and we will have to cut our coat according to our cloth.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JAMES

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

REPORT OF MISSIONARY FOR QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31ST

Please forward this report to the Secretary promptly after the date mentioned

Name of Missionary Fred G. Scherer P. O. Address { Fairbanks
 Name of Presbytery Yukon { Alaska

STATISTICAL REPORT

In the *Statistical Report*, under "Names of Churches and Stations," please write the name of each preaching place, following each in the spaces on the same line with information as to the quarter's work.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND STATIONS	PREACHING SERVICES				OTHER SERVICES				MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR MISSIONARY STUDY AND PRAYER	Number of Pastoral Calls	MEMBERS RECEIVED		BAPTISMS		
	SABBATH		MID-WEEK		SABBATH		MID-WEEK				On Ex.	On Cer.	Adult	Infant	
	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.							
Fairbanks	21	35			12	45			Why and How of		60				
									Foreign Missions	16					
Nenana	3	15									30				

GENERAL REPORT

In the *General Report*, please give some details of the various departments of the work, with its trials and encouragements, and any facts or incidents that will inform the Board as to the field, or interest the Home Mission givers throughout the Church at large. **Both sides of this sheet may be used.**

There is nothing special to report this quarter. We have gone ahead slightly at all points, as this is the best quarter of the year in the work at Fairbanks. People respond a little better than at any other season.

Fairbanks has assumed \$50 a month on salary. I consider this the proper exercise of faith rather than an indisation of any particular prosperity.

I should mention that our little group has taken a prominent part in supporting dry law enforcement. Especially, the attendance in the court room on the part of both our men and women proved effective in making the court act seriously on charges of law violation. Officials have been correspondingly helpful to the church life.

